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CA.)

CALIFORNIA VOICE 8-16-73

Suit to Block Sterilization

Washington — (NBNS) — lines, which he said require The three daughters of Mr. "fully informed" consent be- and Mrs. Lonnie Relf of Ala- fore sterilization can be per- bama filed a class action suit formed on minors or the men- in U.S. District Court here to tally retarded. Such consent, stop all federally-funded steri- Dr. Hellman noted, would re- lizations and experimental quire review from the court. birth control programs until The class action suit was national guidelines are estab- filed by the Southern Poverty lished. Law Center on behalf of

However, Dr. Louis M. Hell- Mary Alice Relf, 12, and her man, deputy assistant secre- sisters Minnie, 14, and Katie, tary for population affairs in 16, and asks for "the imme- the Department of Health, diate cessation of steriliza- Education and Welfare, said, tion" until "constitutionally "we're well ahead of them," adequate standards" are es- explaining that his office has tablished.

met HEW Secretary Caspar Mr. and Mrs. Relf claimed Weinberger's July 19 dead- in a \$5 million damage suit, line for issuing such guide- which was dropped with a

stipulation that a local Mont- gomery agency halt steriliza- tion of minors without gu'de- lines from federal funding agencies, that Minnie and Mary Alice were sterilized without their informed con- sent. Dismissal of the suit was sought by lawyers for the plaintiffs because they con- tended that the judge assign- ed to the case, Federal Dis- trict Judge Robert Varner, was unduly prejudiced be- cause of his disdain for pre- trial publicity. The suit was dropped after the attorneys for local officials named as defendants in the suit also sought its dismisal.

Judge Varner prohibited any future suits against the Montgomery Community Ac- tion Committee, Inc. and its family agency in either state or federal courts. However, the Relf girls could still file a damage suit against several federal officials and a Mont- gomery physician, Dr. A. E. Thomas, who was accused of performing the sterilizations.

NOW Threatens To Sue CALIFORNIA VOICE 8-16-73 Over Grant

Washington -- (NBNS) — The National Organization of Women has arned the Office of Economic Opportunity to reject the grant application of the U.S. Jaycees to dissemi- nate success tories on the program.

NOW President Wilma Scott, in a letter to OEO Act- ing Director Alvin Arnett, contended that the grant would be illegal since the Jaycees exclude women from membership.

Pointing to a possible \$3 million grant to the Jaycees to disseminate stories of men who have been successful in the anti-poverty program, Scott aid NOW would take legal action "to restrain or enjoin" the grant.

She said the organization's legal action would be based on the Economic Opportunity Act of 1972, which specific- ally prohibits sex discrimina- tion.